Encyclopaedia Aristasiana

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Vintesse

Vintesse is a province of Aristasia. The tutelary spirit of Vintesse is Sai Candre, the angel of the moon.

Vintesse is noted for its jinky music and its "Pippsies" (bright young things). It is also the home of Art Neo. Vintesse is closely allied with Novaria.

Places in Vintesse

Ladyton: the capital of the Celestial Empire, situated on the borders of Trent, Vintesse and Novaria

Lempicka: a town in south-east Vintesse

Correspondences

Metal: Silver ; Number: 2

Tellurian Analogies: 1920s ; the Moon

The Flag of Vintesse

The flag of Vintesse has a horizontally divided field, half yellow, half blue. The charge is a lunar crescent with the points upward in the colours of the field counterchanged.

The themes of this flag are clearly lunarity and duality. We have an image of the sublunary world where all things are in a state of flux and change and where things are seen with the two eyes of lunar reason rather than the single eye of Solar Intellect; thus all is divided into dark and light, yin and yang, meli and chela ("brunette" and "blonde" sexes).

In her highest aspect, Sai Candrë, the Moon is called the Great Priestess and is the ruler of earthly priestesses and the type of Our Lady as Priestess of the World; for the Moon stands between earth and Heaven, mediating Heaven to earth and Earth to Heaven. This is precisely the function

shown in this image, with the Moon appearing suffused with Heaven's golden light on the field of earth and with earth's darkness on the field of Heaven. She is the Mediatrix who stands between Dea and maid, being both Dea and maid. She is the Bridge Who leads from earth to Heaven, and the Barque of Swift Crossing (the resemblance of the horned moon to a boat is another minor aspect of its symbolism).

Thus the flag of Vintesse speaks both of the inherent duality of the world and the resolution of that duality by the mediated Light of Heaven.

Stylistically, the counterchanged image, with its perfect line and curves, represents the quintessence of Art Neo — Vintesse being the home of Art Neo par excellence — but counterchanging is also a very traditional heraldic technique, reminding us once again that true Art Neo is simply the application of traditional form within a new milieu. Once again, the resolution of duality — in this case of the apparent duality between the "modern" and the traditional — forms the theme of the Vintesse flag; just as this very resolution is the whole purpose of Westrenne Aristasia in general and of Vintesse in particular.

The Vintesse flag is the only one that is laterally asymmetrical, and it should be note that the yellow field always flies closest to the mast, symbolising the light from the Solar-summitted World-Axis being mediated even to the "outer darkness".

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